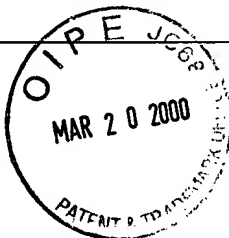


GP 3627

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. Ser. No.:	Filed:	Inventor(s):	Atty Dkt:
09/199,127	24 Nov. 1998	M. Addis <i>et al.</i>	1633-012B
Title: Brush-Seal Designs for Elastic Fluid Turbines			
Examiner: T. Pham			Art Unit: 3627

Asst. Comm'r for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231-0001



Response and Amendments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and § 1.115

Dear Sir:

In complete and timely response to the Office Action mailed 10 March 2000, please first amend the subject application as follows:

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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice amended.) A packing ring segment for use in forming a labyrinth seal with a turbine shaft rotatably mounted within the casing of an axial flow elastic fluid turbine, wherein said axial flow elastic fluid turbine includes at least one stage having (i) at least one diaphragm stationarily mounted in said cas[t]ing and having a plurality of steam directing nozzles, and (ii) a rotor fixedly attached to said turbine shaft and having a plurality of blades bounded by a shroud and disposed adjacent to said plurality of steam directing nozzles, said packing ring segment comprising:

a body portion for mounting within a portion of said diaphragm and having a longitudinal extent, a vertical extent, and a horizontal extent, and being particularly adapted for mounting in a portion of said diaphragm, said body portion having a groove formed along said vertical extent and extending along said longitudinal extent, said body portion having a bore in [opposing] a side edge surface[s] for accepting a spring spanning said bore and [a bore in] an adjacent packing ring segment according to this claim; and